En Garde!

> **For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.**
> **Matthew 24:5 (KJV)**

Recently God opened up my understanding of the above verse. Previously I thought it mean that there were going to be a bunch of people going around saying that they were Christ, but this is not the case. What these people are doing is saying that yes, Jesus is the Christ but then putting a bunch of words in His mouth that He never uttered and twisting the gospel. They are coming in the name of the true Christ but preaching a false one.

Every day I deal with Catholics, Calvinists, Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses and the like, all claiming that they are Christians just like me. These people deceive many simply by saying that they are fellow Christians; coming in His name when in fact they are not followers of Christ at all.

> **Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**
> **1 John 4:1 (KJV)**

This is a great trick of Satan's because he knows humans so well. We tend to put down our swords so quickly when someone claims they are on our side. We want to be pleasant and breezy with others, but mostly we are just plain spiritually lazy. Christians today employ totally wrong criteria for judging the fruits of others. We focus on peg boarding, on putting people in categories when what we should be doing is putting their doctrines to the test.

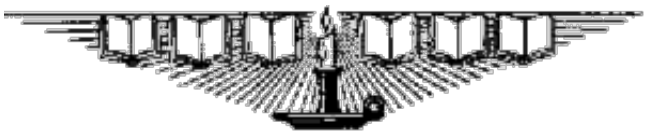
> **For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.**
> **Mark 13:22 (KJV)**

More often than not most of what the wolves say is the truth, otherwise how would they ever fool anyone? The problem is they mix just a little leaven in and that means we have to have much discernment to separate the truth from the lies. Satan is subtle.

> **For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.**
> **Hebrews 5:13 (KJV)**

On the other end of the spectrum I have seen Christians who throw out perfectly good and scriptural doctrine just because it was spoken by a wolf. It is easier for them to just label everything that comes out of a wolf's mouth as a lie than to do their homework and develop the skill to disassemble doctrine and separate the lie from the truth.

Spiritually speaking, one of the most important revelations I ever received was in a 'Christian' bookstore. I have always been a truth seeker and I remember this day having books by a Christian author in each hand but not having enough money to purchase them both. I was earnestly asking God which one I should get when the Holy Spirit spoke so clearly to me. He told me not to get either book because He wanted to teach me directly from His Word.

> **But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.**
> **1 John 2:27 (KJV)**

You see, He doesn't want us to get our doctrine from books and commentaries written by men. That is not to imply that every one of these books are bad, however I came to find that many of them are filled with the doctrines of devils. This applies every bit as much to you as to me. Satan has many bound by the lie that scripture is too difficult to for us to understand and we need personal instruction from men. But as the above scripture makes plain when we are seeking truth the Holy Spirit Himself will be our teacher; what more do we need?